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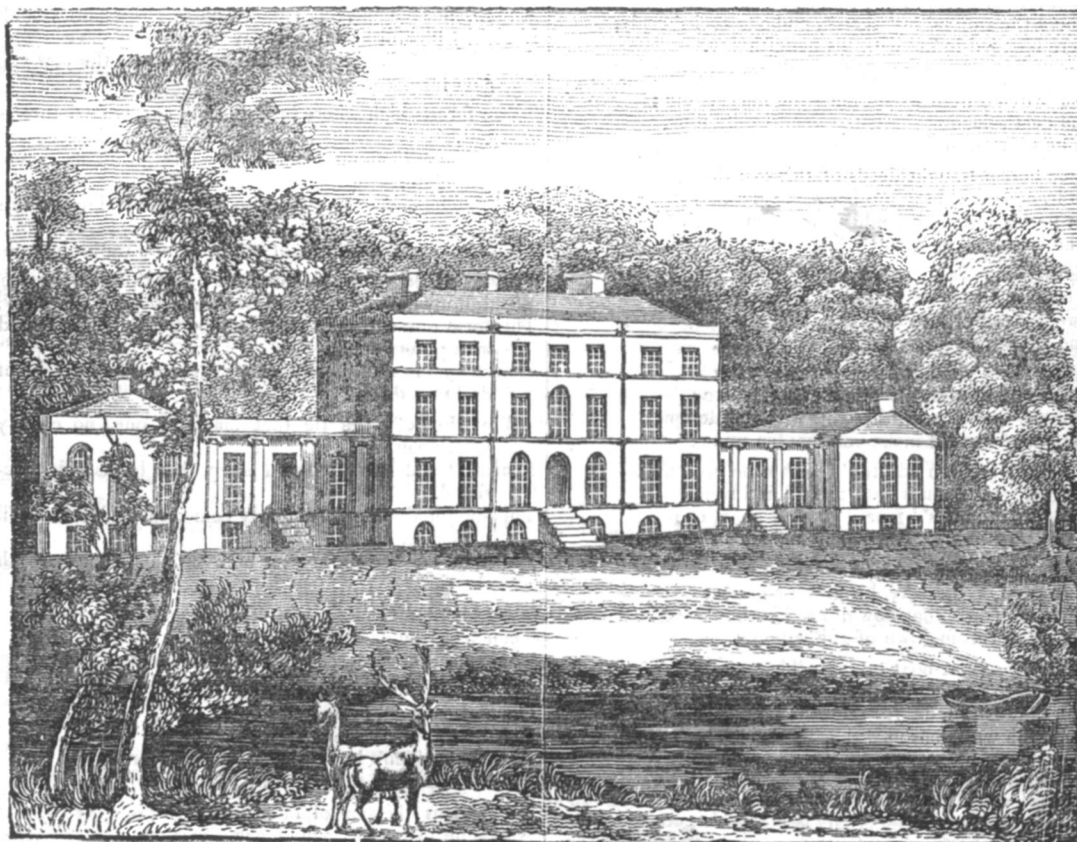
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E. Towell.

CASTLE HYDE CHURCH.

Clayton, sc.



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CASTLE HYDE CHURCH AND CASTLE.

On the banks of the Blackwater river, in the county of Cork, about two miles to the west of Fermoy, stands Castle Hyde, the residence of John Hyde, Esq. Situated in the midst of a picturesque and well-wooded demesne, this mansion presents at once a pleasing and grand appearance, standing as it does on the margin of a beautiful river, whose varied windings never fail to afford subjects in variety for the pencil of the artist, and "sites" sufficient to induce the boldest efforts of architectural design.

The mansion consists of a fine suit of rooms, a spacious hall, and circular stair-case, well executed Portland stone stairs, three stories high, which terminate at the attic in a domical and well-finished ceiling. Off the principal hall, at either side, are spacious corridors, at the termination of which are two neat circular rooms, finished in perfect accordance with the rest, adding much to the extent—in all the most perfect uniformity has been observed, altogether making it a commodious and extensive house. On a rock to the rear, and immediately to the right of the house, are the relics of one of those monuments of antiquity, to which the name claims reference, and of which little more remains than the walls, to the height of one story, of a richly ivyed tower; it consists but of one apartment, in which is a doorway, a few openings, and an oven, rather perfect considering the dilapidated state of the walls. Access to this apartment is from the spacious and well-disposed gardens, which boast a most delightful aspect, and from which may be seen, to the west, the boldly situated castle, crag, &c.

Attached to the demesne is a neat church, part of which being an addition to the original building, is from the design of G. R. Pain, Esq., of Cork. The interior is neat and ornamental; the stained glass in the window has a brilliant and lively effect, together with a handsome groined ceiling, ornamented with stucco centre-pieces, &c. The pews and gallery are of oak, grown on the demesne, all of which are neat and in good repair. E. H.

THE NATURALIST'S LIBRARY—ORNITHOLOGY—VOL. IV.

Of the former volumes of this work we have had occasion to speak in terms of high approbation. With the exception of the Memoir of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, which is very interesting, we can say little for the volume before us. We have already given it as our opinion, that such works should not be confined to mere dry scientific detail. Numerous anecdotes, and many interesting particulars relative to the birds might readily be collected, and by being introduced, would naturally fix the attention of youthful readers, the principal class for whose benefit such publications are intended. In the former volumes of the Naturalist's Library, we were pleased to find that this was the case. In the present volume there is a very brief demi-scientific description of thirty-two kinds of grouse. To sportsmen this may be interesting—to the general reader it certainly is not. It is but fair to say, however, that the very excellent Memoir of Sir Stamford Raffles, which is given in the foregoing part of the work, will, to the minds of many, make ample amends for the deficiencies in the latter. To Sir Stamford, as many of our readers must be aware, the British Naturalist is indebted for a Zoological establishment, which has already rivalled the utility, and emulated the magnificence, of the Continental institutions.

The name of Sir T. Stamford Raffles is intimately connected with the political history of the East, and it is no less so with that of its natural productions. It will be seen that the researches of this naturalist were not confined to one branch of the science, but every department, both of the history of the inhabitants of those islands, and their natural productions, were carefully studied.

MEMOIR OF SIR THOMAS STAMFORD RAFFLES.

To furnish even a sketch of Sir Stamford's life would carry us far beyond our limits. From the following extracts the reader will be able to form some idea of the labour and fatigue which men of talent and energy experience in the following out of their literary, scientific, or philosophic pursuits—in their endeavours to add to the stores of general knowledge. Little

do readers imagine, when glancing over such volumes as the one before us, how much time, and care, and anxiety the information they contain may have cost men of superior minds and information, in collecting facts or making discoveries in the various departments of natural history or science to which they may have turned their attention. As an introduction to the extracts which we purpose giving, we shall merely mention that Sir Stamford, the son of Benjamin Raffles, one of the oldest captains in the West India trade, was born at sea on the 5th July, 1781, off the harbour of Port Morant, in the Island of Jamaica. Little appears to be known of his family, except its antiquity, and that its earlier members passed through life with unblemished reputation. Of his youth previous to the age of fourteen, when he entered into active business, few traits seem to have been recollected, beyond a sedateness of temper, and perseverance in his studies superior to that of his school-fellows, with a vivid apprehension of the incidents which occurred. During this period he studied under the charge of Dr. Anderson, who kept a respectable academy near Hammersmith; and, at the early age we have mentioned, he was placed as an extra clerk in the East India House.

When we consider the very portion of his early life, wherein he could regularly gain the rudiments of a common education, we must be surprised at the variety of acquirements which he afterwards displayed, or rather, perhaps, at the industry by which they were attained. During his sedentary occupation as a clerk, he employed his leisure in attending to several branches of literature, and he obtained a tolerable knowledge of French, which a retentive memory enabled him to retain, and afterwards to use with much advantage, in his various duties of diplomacy. His power of acquiring languages was great, and in his after engagements gave him advantages and influence over the native powers of the East, which could not have been obtained unless by a free intercourse, and which a knowledge of their language could only give.

It would scarcely have been expected that a young man, placed in so apparently friendless a situation, should have made to himself patrons. A friend had, however, marked him; and upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the establishment of the East India House, the appointment was given to the young and studious Raffles, in preference to many who were thought at least to have possessed more interest. In 1805 the Directors determined upon sending out an establishment to Penang; and Mr. Ramsay, then secretary, having observed his talents for diplomacy, his application, and his quickness, recommended him to the office of assistant secretary. In September following, Mr. Raffles first set foot in the East, the theatre in which his acquirements and industry were to be shown forth. During the voyage out he had nearly mastered the Malayan language; and, from the illness of the secretary, he was at once obliged to enter upon all the duties and difficulties of his office, a task of great responsibility, but which he executed to the satisfaction of his employers.

While at Malacca he first saw and mixed with the varied population of the Eastern Archipelago, heard the dialects, and became interested in their origin; and to this singularity and variety may be attributed the first desire to investigate the history and antiquities of this people. In these pursuits he was assisted by the researches which now occupied Mr. Marsden, whose constant application upon the occurrence of difficulties, and innumerable queries, forced and kept up the interest of a subject to which he was already deeply attached. It was at Malacca, also, where he first gained the acquaintance and friendship of Dr. Leyden.

The capture of Java was terminated in 1811, and by all, much of the merit of planning and conducting the expedition is attributed to Mr. Raffles. The services which he had performed were so highly judged of by Lord Minto—the performance of any trust to be reposed in him was so confidently anticipated—that he at once appointed Mr. Raffles Lieutenant-Governor of Java and its dependencies. "The charge was of the most extensive, arduous, and responsible nature, comprising on the island of Java alone, a population of six millions, divided into thirty-six residencies, under powerful chiefs, who had long been desirous of throwing off the European yoke, and who